

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) An apparatus for processing a fluid sample comprising:
 - (i) a platform comprising:
 - (a) a chamber suitable for receiving a sample; and
 - (b) a functional component;
 - (ii) an arm capable of being raised and lowered and including a means for removeably attaching to the functional component such that said component may be raised and lowered with the arm; and
 - (iii) a means for moving the platform such that any chamber or functional component may be aligned with respect to the arm.
2. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus according to Claim 1~~ The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the platform is circular.
3. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus according to Claim 1~~ The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the arm mechanically removeably attaches to the functional component.
4. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus according to Claim 1~~ The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the apparatus comprises a means for raising and lowering the arm in a substantially vertical direction.
5. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus according to Claim 1~~ The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the functional component is used to remove an analyte from the sample in the chamber.

6. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus according to Claim 5~~ The apparatus of Claim 5 wherein the chamber of the apparatus comprises a solid phase binding material capable of forming a complex with the analyte.
7. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus according to Claim 6~~ The apparatus of Claim 6 wherein said solid phase binding material is silica.
8. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus according to Claim 5~~ The apparatus of Claim 6 wherein the apparatus comprises a means for attracting said complex.
9. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus according to Claim 8~~ The apparatus of Claim 8 wherein said means is a magnet.
10. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus according to Claim 8~~ The apparatus of Claim 8 wherein said functional ~~reagent component~~ component is a sheath which provides an interface between the means for attracting the complex and the complex itself.
11. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus according to Claim 1~~ The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the apparatus additionally comprises a physical processing means.
12. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus according to Claim 11~~ The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein the physical processing means is a means for heating the contents of a chamber of the apparatus.
13. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus according to Claim 11~~ The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein the physical processing means is a means for sonicating the contents of a chamber of the apparatus.

14. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus according to Claim 1~~ The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the chamber of the apparatus is coated at least in part with an electrically conducting polymer.

15. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus according to Claim 1~~ The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the apparatus comprises a chamber comprising pre-dispensed reagents.

16. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus according to Claim 15~~ The apparatus of Claim 15 wherein the reagents are bound to further solid phase binding material.

17. (Currently amended) ~~Use of an apparatus according to Claim 1~~ A method of using the apparatus of Claim 1 for the processing of a sample prior to a nucleic acid amplification reaction.

18. (Withdrawn) A method of processing a fluid sample wherein the method comprises:

- (i) placing a sample comprising an analyte into a first chamber located on a platform of an apparatus;
- (ii) binding the analyte to a binding material to form an analyte-binding material complex;
- (iii) lowering a means for reversibly attracting said complex into said first chamber and allowing the complex to be attracted to said means;
- (iv) raising said means from the first chamber;
- (v) moving said platform such that a second chamber is now aligned with the means for reversibly attracting said complex; and
- (vi) lowering said means for reversibly attracting said complex into the second chamber and allowing the complex to detract from said means;

wherein the analyte is subjected to a physical processing step either in the first chamber or in the second chamber.

19. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 17 wherein the physical processing step is a sonication step.
20. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 17 wherein the physical processing step is a heating step.
21. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 17 wherein the sample is also subjected to a chemical processing step.
22. (Withdrawn) Use of a method according to Claim 17 for the processing of a sample prior to a nucleic acid amplification reaction.
23. (Withdrawn) Use of a binding material in a method according to Claim 17 for the processing of a sample prior to a nucleic acid amplification reaction.
24. (Withdrawn) A lid, suitable for closure of a vessel, said lid comprising a membrane wherein said membrane is recessed within the lid.